

# THE DEMING HEADLIGHT

## COOKS PEAK EDITION.

### MOUNTAINS OF LEAD.

#### Description of Mines at Cooks--Their History and Achievements.

In Cooks range, an isolated group of rugged mountains in Southwestern New Mexico, a group that is really an extension of the Black range, there is, in many respects, the most remarkable mining camp in the United States. It is scarcely known as yet outside the Territory, yet a rich reward awaits capital that may be employed to open these mountains that entomb untold tons of rich lead and silver ore.

Cooks Peak, as the district is locally known, is twenty-five miles north of Deming, and fifteen miles northwest of Florida, a station on the Santa Fe railroad, and the most convenient point from which to reach this mining region. Its history is a thrilling story of the adventures and hardships of the early prospectors; of their persistency in continuing work in the face of poverty and the menace of hostile Indians, and of ultimate success, the result of a faith as steadfast as the mountains in which they delved. Many of these prospectors worked their claims alone at the beginning. When they struck ore they hired help; and thus from the beginning all development work has been carried on by the reinvestment of a part of the money taken from the mines. Not one dollar of outside capital has ever gone into a hole in these hills. The proceeds of the openings have paid the bills, muscle and pluck did the rest. Today Cooks Peak mines employ 300 men; the camp has a population of nearly 500 persons; a school house, and a more orderly or harmonious community does not exist. There are no idlers there; if a tramp comes, he is well fed and directed on his way. Everybody is busy; yet no more help is needed. If a mine owner decides to "put on" more workers they are sent for; it is seldom that a miner is seen lying around waiting for work, such is the system maintained at Cooks.

Thus in comparatively few years this camp has made fortunes for several men, and today its output of ore is estimated at \$7,000 per week. This is not large for an entire camp that can show some sixty-five claim entries, and practical men will readily understand how the

investment of capital will increase the yield. The pick and shovel, drill and hammer, powder and fuse have been the sole developing instruments employed. This method is slow when compared with power drills and steam hoists; as against hand drilling and hand hoists, the implements of the present. But manual labor has made its mark in the hills with the result that more ore is now in sight than at any period in the history of the camp, the reports of blasting reverberate through canon and over mountain night and day.

The heaviest developments center within an area of one and one-half mile by a mile and a-half, but the mineral belt extends a distance of nearly eight miles north and south, and from one to five miles east and west, and within this area are many fine prospects,

turn, is blanketed by stratified limes and over this is an immense deposit of eruptive porphyry. This ore averages 50 to 60 per cent lead and from eight to fifteen ounces in silver. On account of its character it is used as a flux by smelter operators, and therefore commands a premium of an average of \$2 per ton.

At Hadley, the lower camp, the ore is in fissure veins in porphyry. The developments at Hadley do not cover an area exceeding a square mile, but it is known that the fissures extend northward some 18 miles. The Hadley ore is exceedingly rich. It runs from 50 to 450 ounces of silver; \$6 to \$12 gold; from 50 to 70 per cent lead, and some of it carries from 15 to 30 per cent copper. Here is located the famous Graphic mine. The ore is smelted in El Paso, Texas, and Colorado,

dition, and to show the producers, each claim was visited and accurate detailed descriptions were secured. The numeration begins with the lower claims of the east side and follows up the belt in a westerly direction to the dividing mountain, thence to the southwest side of this mountain and on to the north end of developments, three miles from the main camp. Hadley, four miles east of this camp, and recognized as a part of the district, is also included.

Flower Queen was explored by U. E. McDaniel in the fall of 1881, and the same year he began developments and secured high grade lead and silver ore from the start. He later incorporated a company in which was associate Liedauer, Corbett & Wormser of Deming. For the next few years the Queen was a rich producer. The Spring Mine claims Nos. 1 and 2 lie parallel and are near the Flower Queen. A concentrator mill is erected on No. 1, Spanish Beauty, owned and operated by Charles H. Gearhart and S. A. Sallenberger, adjoins Othello and Desdemona on the south; shaft 90 feet, drift 35 feet, which enters into a large body of ore which will run high in lead and about fifteen ounces of silver. One car load of ore was shipped October 23, and another is being made up.

Othello group-Othello, Desdemona and Monte Cristo, owned by Consolidated Kansas City Refining and Smelting Co., John Mitchell, superintendent. Originally discovered in 1876 by E. G. Orr, who gave it to a friend. Rediscovered and located by A. P. Taylor in 1881, who sold it to G. L. Pierce of Socorro, N. M., for

\$600. He subsequently sold to present owners. The property is a steady producer and has probably yielded three-quarters of a million dollars. U. E. McDaniel leased the group in 1890, and secured a later lease in 1893. He was succeeded by William Kieff in February, 1894, whose lease for two and one-half years expired last July. In this time Mr. Kieff is credited with having produced \$400,000 of ore, of which 200 car loads was found in one gigantic pocket. At the termination of this lease the owners took possession, and it has continued a large producer. This ore runs 5 to 12 ounces silver and from 35 to 70 per cent lead. Sixty-five miners are employed.

Bryan, adjoins the Othello above, owned by Wm. Kieff and A. P. Taylor; new workings; shaft 135 feet deep, now

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EAST SIDE

WEST SIDE OF RANGE, PEAK IN THE DISTANCE

Looking down on all this wealth and activity from a point just out of range of, and to the left of the view on this page is the great Cooks Peak, whose colossal cap of porphyry towers to a height of between 9,000 and 10,000 feet. The view of the peak on the second page was taken from Montezuma canon at an elevation of 7,000 feet.

Although a part of Cooks district, the distinctive name of Hadley is given to what is called the lower camp, four miles southeast of the main camp. At a point between Hadley and the main camp the geological features change. At the dividing point, the carbonate belt begins and continues in a northwesterly direction a distance of eight miles. The ore is found in caves and pockets in dolomitic limestone overlayed by black shale, which, in

The transportation of ore to the railroad costs \$2.50 per ton, and the freight rate to El Paso is \$2.10 per ton, a total freight charge of \$4.60 per ton.

The camp is easy of access. Bronkow Mitchell's stages meet every train, the road is smooth and of easy grade, and the trip across the plains up into the mountains is full of delights; the scenery is gorgeous, a grand panorama of nature that is not surpassed in this region. Mr. Mitchell also carries the mail; and in this connection may be stated that the mail business of Cooks has almost doubled in the past two years, and under these circumstances Uncle Sam can well afford to increase the amount paid on this route.

To present a clear and precise understanding of the character of the properties in Cooks district, their general con-